

Site

HMP Altcourse

Name of project / initiative

Family Interventions Unit

Overview

Altcourse's Family Intervention Unit is a 60 bed single cell unit which offers various interventions – including a "Family Interventions Course" – which men can access to enable a more stable relationship with their family and children. And "graduates" of the course are entitled to family visits, on the wing, where they can spend quality time with their partners and children, who in turn can see where they live.

The unit is for prisoners who are identified as having had difficulties in their family relationships, including low level domestic violence, and who wish to develop, strengthen and maintain healthy family ties both throughout their sentence and post release. Its focus is on maintaining family relationships to help reduce the prisoners' risk of reoffending and to give their children the opportunity to develop strong physical and emotional relationships with both parents.

Benefits

According to the Governor, the Family Interventions Unit has brought significant benefits to the residents on the unit and their children and families, and should play a significant role in helping to reduce the participants' risk of reoffending on release.

What's special about it?

The unit is a key part of Altcourse's commitment to helping maintain and foster positive relationships between prisoners and their families, and is unusual in being a dedicated unit focusing on this issue.

Wider applicability

The prison feel that units of this sort have an important role to play and could be rolled out more widely, right across the estate. It does require a dedicated space to house the unit.

For more information:

Contact: Head of Offender Management

See also: [KnowX.uk/Altcourse-RMT22\(1\).pdf](https://www.knowx.uk/Altcourse-RMT22(1).pdf) (images) and [KnowX.uk/Altcourse-RMT22\(2\).pdf](https://www.knowx.uk/Altcourse-RMT22(2).pdf) (additional information)

Submitted by:

The Governor